



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**May 12, 2022**  
**via Zoom**

I. **Call to Order:** At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Robert Smith opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

A. **Roll Call:** At 10:00 a.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Robert Smith  
Commissioner Dr. Jan Osborn  
Commissioner Geoffrey Andrews  
Commissioner Matt Dole  
Commissioner Rex Elsass  
Commissioner Stephen Freeze, Esq.  
Commissioner Christine Merritt  
Designee Dr. Chris Woolard

**Members Arriving Later:**

Commissioner Meira Zucker arrived at 10:05 a.m.  
Chelsea Golterman of Senator Fedor's office arrived at 10:16 a.m.  
Senator Antani arrived at 10:28 a.m.

**Members Absent:**

Designee Charles See  
Non-Voting State Representative Catherine Ingram  
Non-Voting State Representative Sharon Ray

A quorum was declared.

**Also Present Virtually:**

Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;  
Craig Stevenson, Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Officer;  
Laura Bryson, Chief Information Officer;  
Alina Gage, Chief Financial Officer;  
Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone;

And interested Citizens:

David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;  
David Stein, Video Services Manager, Licking Area Computer Association;

Jana Fornario, Ex. Dir. of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief American Rescue Plan State Activities (ESSER);  
Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;  
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;  
Mark Brewer, General Manager of WOUB;  
and Susan Kratzer, Hannah News

**B. Commission Action Items:**

1. Chairman Smith read the conflict-of-interest statement.

**Resolution 22-39: Motion to Approve March 31, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

10:03 a.m. – Mr. Elsass moved for approval of the March 31, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Merritt seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

2. Ms. Bryson reminded the commission the ethics filings deadline is Monday May 16, 2022.
3. Public Service Recognition Week was discussed by Mr. Bryson; three employees were recognized for milestone longevity.
4. Chairman Smith spoke to the conflict-of-interest statement included on the agenda.

**II. Finance**

**A. May 2022 Financial Statement**

1. Mrs. Gage reviewed the May 2022 financial statement and said the commission is on track for FY22 spending. The remaining subsidy funds were sent on May 2, 2022 and plans for remaining operating funds were shared.

**B. FY23-24 Capital Budget Request Status**

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips gave a status update on the FY23-24 capital funds request. It is still pending with the legislature and the governor.

**C. FY23 Subsidy Allocation Resolution**

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated a motion is needed to authorize the Executive Director to distribute subsidy funds to Ohio Public Television, Ohio Public Radio, and Ohio Radio Reading Services according to the formulas approved by the commission in resolution 22-09 on September 9, 2021. A new motion will be needed to apply the same formula and release funds in FY23.
2. Ms. Barbone gave guidance to voting on motions which may have a conflict of interest.
  - a. Chairman Smith recused himself from voting on the motion.

**Resolution 22-40: Motion to Distribute FY23 Subsidy Funds**

10:09 a.m. – Dr. Osborn moved to renew the same procedure for the following fiscal year (to authorize the Executive Director to release the FY23 subsidy funds according to the formula decided in resolution 22-09 on September 9, 2021). Mr. Dole seconded.

- b. Chairman Smith reminded the commission of the conflict-of-interest statement, if they are voting members of any affiliate, and asked Ms. Barbone for guidance. Ms. Barbone said it can be discussed at a later time

for specific instances, but if commissioners are members of organizations receiving funding, it would be best to recuse at this time. Chairman Smith asked for additional guidance given his role at ideastream. Ms. Barbone stated at this time, it would be best to recuse and then discuss individual situations later.

- c. Mr. Freeze asked if a conflict exists if he has been off the board of stations for “a couple of years”. Ms. Barbone said it would be okay to vote now.
- d. Mr. Elsass said he does not see the need for sensitive energy around the issue. Chairman Smith said he wants to make sure the commission can have discussion about the issue and that the members concerned about conflict can have the advice of the Associate Attorney General.

The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote, with Chairman Smith and Ms. Zucker recusing themselves.

- e. Mr. Freeze asked what happens to the approved action if someone who should have recused themselves does not. Ms. Barbone responded the issue would be a potential ethics violation on the individual and that the resolution would be potentially voided, but typically the issue is more with the individual.
- f. Chairman Smith asked Ex. Dir. Phillips to send Ms. Barbone a list of commissioner involvement in other organizations. Ms. Barbone asked for commissioners to notify staff of potential conflicts because staff at BEMC may not know each organization with which the commissioners are involved. Chairman Smith asked a survey to be sent out.

#### **D. FY23 Purchases over \$50,000**

- 1. Mrs. Gage shared the expected purchase orders over \$50,000 in FY23. These include American Electric Power, AT&T, Department of Administrative Services, HA Design, OARnet, and The Ohio State University.

#### **Resolution 22-41: Motion to Approve the FY23 Purchases over \$50,000**

10:20 a.m. – Dr. Osborn moved for approval (to authorize the Executive Director to issue purchase orders in FY23 for the suppliers listed on the provided handout and listed by Mrs. Gage). Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

### **III. Recognition for Retiring Commissioner**

- 1. Chairman Smith recognized Dr. Osborn for his years of service to the commission. Ms. Merritt, Mr. Freeze, Mr. Andrews also commended Dr. Osborn for his knowledge, integrity, and commitment to the commission. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared thanks from the staff at BEMC and Mr. Martin of ideastream expressed appreciation for his authenticity, fairness, and passion for public media.
- 2. Dr. Osborn shared thoughts about the honor of being nominated by three different governors and the privilege it was to be involved with the work at BEMC.

### **IV. Educational Technology**

1. Ms. Jana Fornario, Ex. Dir. of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief American Rescue Plan State Activities (ESSER), shared a presentation.
  - a. Ms. Fornario stated ESSER guiding principles (beliefs are in the students, that the time is now, in partnerships, and in learning/adapting) and initiatives (overcoming obstacles, accelerating learning, and preparing students). Ohio Learns 360 is a partnership with Ohio's PBS stations to supplement learning opportunities outside of schools including *Camp-in-a-Box*, *After School 360*, virtual field trips, *Parent Power* webinars, and community events. A map showing internet connectivity across Ohio was displayed and types of support offered by Connectivity Champions were discussed.
    - i. Mr. Andrews shared all internet providers agreed to offer internet service with speeds of 100mbps for \$30. That is the rebate amount from the federal government and will thus make internet free.
    - ii. Chairman Smith asked if there is a baseline for internet accessibility and if Ms. Fornario can come back in a year to discuss changes.
    - iii. Mr. Andrews shared the connectivity team will be in places they traditionally not, such as county fairs where hotspots will be distributed.
  - b. Ms. Fornario continued describing the types of support available. Collaboration with Ohio Educational Service Centers (OESC) was discussed including the goals and expected outcomes. OESC is looking to grow professional learning, increase quality resources to educators, and improve student outcomes.
  - c. Ms. Fornario provided information about INFOhio. The goal is to support the use of high-quality instructional materials in places around the state where they are needed most and to support high quality distance learning opportunities.
    - i. Mr. Martin added ThinkTV, in the Dayton/Cincinnati area, was instrumental in getting the Ohio Learns 360 project started due to their experience in the field and that stations are excited to be part of the program.
2. Ms. Bryson shared an update on multimedia projects. All stations are reporting completed projects or expected completion prior to June 30, 2022.
3. Ms. Bryson provided an update about space sharing agreement with East Central Ohio Educational Service Center (ECOESC) to occupy space at 2470 North Star Road. ECOESC is planning to reduce the space leased from BEMC.
  - a. Chairman Smith asked for no abbreviations in the agenda.

## V. **Staff Reports**

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips called the commission's attention to a document sent to the commission members prior to the meeting detailing the accomplishments of the staff since the March 31, 2022 meeting.

- a. Mr. Stevenson shared WOSU is completely migrated to the new location at Pearl Avenue.
- b. Mrs. Gage shared resolution of a long-standing billing issue at AT&T.
- c. Ex. Dir. Phillips congratulated the BEMC staff for a successful fire inspection. No issues were noted in the report.

VI. **Executive Session**

**Resolution 22-42: Motion to Enter into Executive Session**

11:04 a.m. – Dr. Osborn made a motion to enter executive session to discuss alleged misconduct and potential discipline of a public employee. Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

Regular session was resumed at 12:45 p.m.

Dr. Osborn recommended the personnel matter be referred back to the executive committee for action.

VII. **Adjournment:**

**Resolution 22-44: Motion for Adjournment**

12:47 p.m. - Ms. Zucker moved to adjourn. Mr. Dole seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

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Robert C. Smith, Chairman  
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

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Date